

# Capitol Report

**News & Updates from Your State Capitol**  
**By Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels**

## Election Officials, Voters Look Toward November 4

The state's election season got into full swing on March 3 with a shortened Candidate Filing schedule. Although the date and duration of the filing period were new this year, a total of 318 candidates filed with the Secretary of State's office for 231 state, district and nonpartisan judicial offices.

The changes in Candidate Filing were made by Act 1049 of 2007, shortening the period from 10 to five days and moving it earlier in the month. Election officials now have the additional time they needed to develop ballots in time for military and overseas voters.

Following the May 23 Preferential Primary, Secretary of State election coordinators hit the road to conduct training sessions on the

statewide voter registration system, as well as testing procedures for voting and tabulation equipment. Their emphasis has been to ensure ballots are coded accurately and that all procedures for preparing electronic voting systems are followed carefully so that Election Day runs smoothly.

### Are YOU Ready?

Other Election Day issues – while easy to prevent – rely on the voters themselves to update. Secretary Daniels urges Arkansas voters to verify their address and polling location well before heading to the polls, which allows time for corrections to take effect.

(See **ELECTION** continued on Page 2)

## National Innovation Award Goes to Arkansas Register

Arkansas's administrative rules publication, the *Arkansas Register*, was recently honored with the 2008 Robert J. Colborn, Jr. Innovation Award by the Administrative Codes and Registers (ACR) division of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS).

Editor Jon Davidson accepted the award on behalf of Secretary of State Charlie Daniels' office and made a presentation on Arkansas's system of cataloguing administrative rules at the 2008 NASS summer conference.

The Colborn Award is presented each year to a program that employs creative solutions for managing administrative rules or improving public access to them. It is named for the founder of the national ACR organization, Bob Colborn of Maryland, who actually assisted Arkansas in developing its own rules publication in 1977.

Produced by the Secretary of State's office, the *Arkansas Register* is the official publication of administrative rules and regulations adopted by state agencies, boards and commissions under

the Administrative Procedures Act. Arkansas was honored for its efforts to modernize the filing system and make more information available to the public through a searchable online database. It was created in conjunction with Vipin Nischal of the Secretary of State's Information Technology Division and the Information Network of Arkansas.

More information on the *Arkansas Register*, including agency rule filing instructions can be found on the Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov).



Jon Davidson, editor of the *Arkansas Register*, accepts the Colburn Innovation Award from Dennis Stevenson of Idaho, chairman of the award committee.



*The first half of this 2008 election year was interesting to watch with two significant changes in our primary system: a new Presidential Primary in February and an earlier, shorter candidate filing period for the May Preferential Primary.*

*We saw a mixed result in voter turnout: nearly 35 percent in February and a record-low 18 percent in May. That's certainly not the kind of record I want to see our state break. The presidential race typically draws the highest turnout in Arkansas, and with no statewide races on the May ballot, voters simply didn't make that second trip to the polls. It's a problem we'll need to look at very carefully with legislators to determine if splitting the primaries is in the best interest of Arkansans.*

*As we now turn to the November 4 General Election, our emphasis is on providing additional training to election officials on the voter registration and voting systems.*

(Continued on Page 2)



(Continued from front page)

With each passing election, poll workers and officials grow even more familiar with the systems that were implemented in 2006 which means the process runs more smoothly each time. But we must practice those procedures and train new staff as they come on board. My office has led regional training sessions, focusing on ballot coding and equipment set-up, to help prevent the most common issues that can occur.

Our efforts to reach out to the state's potential voters are two-fold: first, getting all eligible citizens registered to vote and, second, getting them out to the polls. With more than 1.6 million voters registered in the state, Arkansas has a good registration rate. My office continues to conduct voter registration drives and train state agencies on registration procedures to make sure every qualified Arkansan has the opportunity to register.

Even more importantly, though, I want to make sure registered voters actually use their voice at the ballot boxes. That's why our fall voter education campaign is focusing on the basics: reminding voters of important deadlines, helping them locate their polling sites and letting first-time voters know what they can expect at the polls. You can learn more about voting in the Natural State at [www.VoteNaturally.org](http://www.VoteNaturally.org)

## Save a Tree

Sign up for the all-new

## Capitol Report e-News!

To receive the electronic version of future issues of Capitol Report, sign-up online at [www.sos.arkansas.gov/news\\_enewsletter\\_signup.html](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/news_enewsletter_signup.html) or e-mail [arsos@sos.arkansas.gov](mailto:arsos@sos.arkansas.gov) with the subject line "Subscribe CR."

## The Sun Goes Down on Another Phase of Restoration

Scaffolding and covered walkways came down as the Capitol restoration project reached another milestone in July. Crews completed their work on portions of the western side, including a large ornamental piece that broke away just as work began in February.

A \$1.2 million grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council funded this phase of the restoration project. Stonework on two-thirds of the west façade was cleaned, sealed and repaired where necessary to halt deterioration, which became evident when the 200 pound segment tumbled to the ground.

The damaged capital first cracked decades ago and was repaired in the 1960s, but time and the elements gradually wore away the caulking. On a Saturday in February, the scrolled piece fell 32 feet outside the west door off the pedestrian walkway. Secretary of State Charlie Daniels ordered crews to perform an in-depth inspection of the remaining exterior surfaces, but no other public safety hazards were identified.

Because of the weight and location of the fallen limestone, early plans were to replace it with a

stone putty replica. However, reinforcing rods and a special type of bonding material proved strong enough to reattach the original piece, which was returned to its rightful place in early June.

"In my tenure as Secretary of State, I have worked diligently to preserve and restore the Capitol building with limited funds," said Secretary Daniels. "While we have been able to complete restoration on the building's most damaged north exterior and the dome, this latest incident is proof that additional work to restore our Capitol is desperately needed."

The ANCRC grant was sufficient to complete two-thirds of the west side, including reattaching the fallen piece. The Secretary of State's office will apply in March 2009 for another grant to continue the cleaning and restoration work on the west side before moving on to the eastern front of the Capitol.

Since 2003 ANCRC grants have funded restoration work to surrounding monuments and the Capitol dome, as well as the north and south façade.



(ELECTION Continued from front page)

It's simple to check your voter information, right from your desktop. Simply go to [www.VoteNaturally.org](http://www.VoteNaturally.org) and click on "Search Your Voter Registration Information." This site offers lots of information for voters, from general voting guidelines, to information on candidates and ballot issues.

Arkansans can also help promote voter turnout by conducting voter registration drives in their communities. To receive the forms and information you need, contact the Elections Division at 1-800-247-3312. The deadline for submitting registrations in order to vote in the General Election is October 6.

With the Presidential race and several ballot issues likely to increase voter turnout, remember that you can vote early October 20 through November 3 and avoid waiting on Election Day. Watch your local newspaper or contact your county clerk for early voting locations in your county. Or, on November 4, head to your polling site and make your voice heard!



## Record Trees, Forestry Industry Focus of Summer Exhibit

The Declaration of Independence, the Louisiana Purchase, Arkansas Statehood and even the election of Bill Clinton as President – one Loblolly Pine in southeast Arkansas bore witness to these historic events before it succumbed to damage in 2003. A cross section of this record-setting tree was on display this summer at the Arkansas State Capitol as part of the exhibit, *Of Memories and Trees*.

Created in conjunction with the Arkansas Forestry Commission, the exhibit examined the industry's role in building the state. Essential in the state's economy from the late 1800s to today, forest industries produce fuel, timber and raw materials from hundreds of thousands of acres. Arkansas timber also provides beauty and shade in public parks and recreation areas, as well as habitat for wildlife.

In 1997, the Arkansas Famous and Historic Trees Program was established to document the state's most noted specimens. *Of Memories and Trees* featured 33 of the notables included in the program's register. Rare images reproduced from vintage glass lantern slides illustrated the early days of the Arkansas timber

industry. Tools used by loggers, arborists and forest rangers showed the wide range of equipment used in the woods.

The next subject in the State Capitol exhibit series is ideal for the fall election season – a light-hearted look at some contentious presidential contests of the past. Watch for these new displays in mid-September. Hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekends and holidays.



**This five-foot-wide “cookie,” or cross-sectional slice, of the largest known or recorded loblolly pine tree in the nation marks important historical dates in the Arkansas tree's life.**

## Young Voters Program Continues with Fall Edition

With the Presidential campaigns in full swing, Arkansas high school students will have the chance to air their views during the Secretary of State's Fall Young Voters Program, September 16-18, in Little Rock at the Association of Arkansas Counties building.

Open to high schools around the state, the Young Voters program began in 2003 with a spring session designed to engage students in the voting process. Expanded with a fall

session in 2007, this edition includes a skit on women's suffrage, trivia games on the history of voting and a lively debate on current events. Discussions will touch on relevant issues such as the continually-rising cost of higher education and the approximately 13.3 million 18-29 year-olds without health insurance.

More than 800 students have participated in the Young Voters program since it began.

The overriding message throughout each session has been that every student has a vested interest in the elections process and each vote does count.

“My hope is that by presenting Arkansas students with issues that directly impact their lives, we will open their eyes to the responsibilities that they, as future voters, will encounter,” said Secretary of State Charlie Daniels.

## Secretary of State's 2008 Summer Interns



Secretary of State Charlie Daniels greeted 25 students who served internships within the Secretary of State's office this summer. The students completed a number of projects and tasks within Elections, Communications and Education, Business and Commercial Services, Gift Shop, Grounds and Building Operations divisions. Pictured with Secretary Daniels are: (first row, from left) Joya Hampton, Katie Beck; (second row) Chase Daneshmandi, Hayden Southern, Janae Smallwood, Federica Gill, Jamie Brown; (third row) Mary Seale, Rachel Smith, Emily Towe; (fourth row) Lillie Peterson, Megan Childress, Deon Manning, Karen Mason, Brendacia Butler; (fifth row) Eugene Brannon, Ryan Green, Greg Steinsiek, Mitchell Dedmon, Will Douthard. Not pictured are Renee Abernathy, Hannah Cook, Caroline Guerra, Kelsey Newman and Kenny Williams.

## Capitol Gives Youth Leaders Hands-On Approach to State Government

June 5th and 6th were no ordinary days for the Arkansas State Capitol with hundreds of high school students taking their place as part of the annual Boys and Girls State programs. The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary conduct the programs, giving students an inside look into all levels of state government.

Boys Secretary of State Billy Fair and Girls Secretary of State Jillian Bridges experienced a day in the life of the constitutional office. At their arrival, both were sworn in as elected officials and given a tour of the State Capitol by Secretary of State Charlie Daniels' staff. Each, as part of their official duties, made deputy appointments and welcomed friends and visitors.

The Secretary of State's office also hosted a college fair with over 30 public and private schools recruiting students. Numerous delegates practiced voting on the state's iVotronic voting machines, and over 100 delegates registered to vote.

Through sponsorships from the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary and help from the University of Central Arkansas and Harding University, the conference was able to host over 700 girls and over 500 boys from high schools from all over the state.



## New Lessons, Activities Help Teach Arkansas Civics

Another Arkansas summer has faded, and the kids have headed back to the classroom. This year, though, there's something new and exciting available to Arkansas schools: free Arkansas-specific civics lesson plans.

The *ABCs of Citizenship*, designed for grades K-8, include lessons on the powers of state and federal governments, state symbols and civic responsibilities. Corresponding activities help illustrate how government affects students – and how they can affect government.

The curriculum aligns with social studies frameworks of the Arkansas Department of Education. Funded in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and Center for Civic Education, the curriculum was created by a collaboration of teachers, the University of Central Arkansas, the Department of Education and the Secretary of State's office. Contained on a user-friendly CD-ROM, the lessons are now available at no charge through the Secretary of State's office.

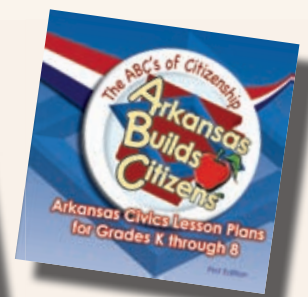
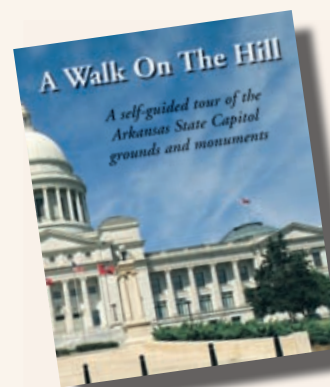
Information on the new lesson plans was featured during the Secretary of State's free educational workshops held at 18 locations around the state. *Using the State Capitol to Teach* walks teachers through a number of classroom resources available to them, including Arkansas activity books, speakers and historic presentations, as well as information on voter education, civics and government.

Around 500 teachers participated in the workshops and received a free CD-ROM of the Secretary of State's educational materials.

### Capitol Grounds Tour Debuts

The workshops also showcased the variety of State Capitol tours available for field trips throughout the year. The newest of these, *A Walk on the Hill*, provides a self-guided tour of the beautifully landscaped grounds and historic monuments surrounding the Capitol. The guide also identifies many varieties of trees on the grounds, making it an ideal source for aspiring botanists of any age.

For information about any of the Secretary of State's educational programs, contact Education Coordinator Jennifer Schaffner at [jennifer.schaffner@sos.arkansas.gov](mailto:jennifer.schaffner@sos.arkansas.gov), or go online at [www.soskids.arkansas.gov](http://www.soskids.arkansas.gov).

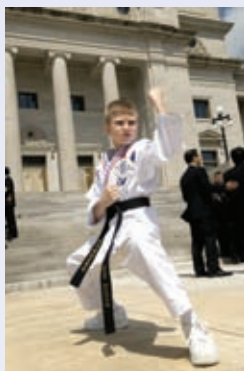






## Secretary Daniels Welcomes ATA to Arkansas

Secretary Daniels welcomed the American Taekwondo Association's World Championships to Arkansas on June 27 with a ceremony in the Capitol rotunda. He extended a special welcome to Grand Master Soon Ho Lee along with dignitaries from nations including South Korea, Portugal and Uruguay. Secretary Daniels, an honorary black belt, proclaimed "ATA Day" at the Capitol during the welcome ceremonies. ATA athletes performed taekwondo demonstrations and Secretary Daniels ordered the South Korean flag flown over the Capitol for the weekend to honor the thousands of visitors to the state. He also gave a welcoming address during the evening's opening ceremonies at Alltel Arena. The competition brought in approximately 20,000 competitors and their families, representing 17 countries.



## Free Seminars Keep Notaries Well-Informed

In an effort to provide up-to-date information to the state's notaries public, the Secretary of State's office continues to conduct its free notary training program.

More than 4,000 of the state's 47,000 commissioned notaries have taken advantage of these free classes since their debut in 2005. Topics include an overview of the office of notary public, requirements and qualifications, jurisdiction, best practices, unlawful acts and revocation of commission.

The Business and Commercial Services Division of the Secretary of State's office offers the 90-minute seminars on the second Wednesday of every month, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the BCS offices in Little Rock. Businesses, governmental offices or

other groups may also schedule a private seminar for as few as eight participants.

Training sessions are also held around the state throughout the year. You can find the fall schedule at [www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov) or in the September issue of the BCS newsletter, Arkansas, Inc.

To register for a Little Rock class or to schedule a seminar, contact Jarrod Johnson at [jarrod.johnson@sos.arkansas.gov](mailto:jarrod.johnson@sos.arkansas.gov) or go online to [www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov) and click the notary link under Business and Commercial Services. For more information on training and notary issues call (501) 682-3409.

## State Capitol Takes Steps to Go Green

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Capitol staff and visitors will find it easier to do their part with new recycling bins at six different locations around the building.

The Secretary of State's office has placed receptacles marked for recyclable plastics and aluminum products at the north and south entrances to the first floor rotunda, the east entrance to the second floor rotunda, the snack stand on the third floor and outside the Capitol Café in the basement. Bins are also in place at the north entrance to the Capitol Hill building.

"I am happy to provide both visitors and staff with easy access to recycling bins for their water bottles and soda cans," Secretary Daniels said. "As energy costs increase and landfill space decreases, recycling and reusing our resources just makes good sense."

The Secretary of State's office has already taken steps to reduce energy usage by recycling its white paper and replacing most of the Capitol's incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent and LED bulbs.





9-08

## Charlie Daniels

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## The Tale of Two Domes – Now on Display

In January 1899 St. Louis architect George Mann won the job of creating a fitting capitol for Arkansas. Ten years later, the Capitol stood uncompleted, a victim of bad luck, cost overruns and political wrangling. George Mann left the Capitol project; architect Cass Gilbert of New York was hired to rescue and complete the endangered undertaking. Gilbert was able to make the unfinished building fit for occupation by January 1911 and substantially completed it by 1915.

Since then, Capitol visitors have been duly informed that the building is the work of two architects: Mann, then Gilbert. Tours view the interior, where Gilbert's distinctive contributions are most noticeable. George Mann's original vision of the home of Arkansas government survives, however, in the form of blueprints, watercolors and line drawings on waxed linen preserved in the Capitol's archives. Six full-sized reproductions of selections from this collection, plus an enlarged copy of Mann's original rendering of the Capitol were recently installed in the first-floor Visitor's Center to give guests a sense of "the Capitol that might have been."

Comparing the drawings to the Capitol's final form reveals a process of simplification, or de-ornamentation: George Mann envisioned a more ornate exterior than meets today's eye. Planned decorative details, which included statuary, stone lions,

a baroque-inspired metal dome and niche fountains, were absent from the finished structure, probably excised due to both Gilbert's aesthetic preferences and ongoing attempts to hold down costs. The original drawings, both watercolors and linens, have been reproduced by a combination of scanning and digitally "stitching" individual images, then printing onto artist's canvas. They complement "Building Forever," the third-floor display interpreting the Capitol's own history, and the selected construction images exhibit that will be reinstalled in the basement foyer gallery in September.

